

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for lining a lateral wellbore, comprising:  
a main casing having a lateral wellbore window formed therein disposed within a main wellbore;  
a whipstock having a longitudinal bore running therethrough and disposed within the main wellbore adjacent the lateral wellbore window, the whipstock comprising a deflecting surface for forming a lateral wellbore through the lateral wellbore window;  
a tie-back assembly operable to dispose a lateral liner within the lateral wellbore, the tie-back assembly having a tie-back window formed therein; and  
a latch mechanism operable to couple the tie-back assembly to the main casing and align the tie-back window with the longitudinal bore of the whipstock; and  
~~whereby, the deflecting surface being configured so that~~ when the tie-back assembly is disposed into the main wellbore, the lateral liner and a portion of the tie-back assembly are deflected into the lateral wellbore by the deflecting surface such that the tie-back window aligns with the longitudinal bore of the whipstock.
2. (Original) The system of Claim 1, further comprising a latching mechanism operable to couple the whipstock to an inside surface of the main casing and align the deflecting surface with the lateral wellbore window.
3. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the longitudinal bore of the whipstock is concentric with an outside diameter of the whipstock.

4. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the tie-back assembly comprises:  
a lower section configured to couple to the lateral liner;  
an upper section configured to couple to the main casing; and  
an intermediate section disposed between the lower and upper sections;  
a first swivel coupling the intermediate section to the lower section, the first swivel operable to allow angular and rotational movement of the intermediate section relative to the lower section;  
and  
a second swivel coupling the intermediate section to the upper section, the second swivel operable to allow only angular movement of the intermediate section relative to the upper section.

5. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 4, ~~further comprising a~~ wherein the latching mechanism is operable to couple the upper portion to the main casing and align the tie-back window with the longitudinal bore of the whipstock.

6. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the deflecting surface extends around the full perimeter of the whipstock.

7. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein an end of the lateral liner comprises an outside diameter that is at least slightly greater than a diameter of the longitudinal bore.

8. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the main casing comprises an outside diameter of approximately 5 1/2 inches.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for lining a lateral wellbore, comprising:  
drilling a main wellbore extending from a surface to a subterranean zone;  
casing the main wellbore with a main casing having a plurality of lateral wellbore windows formed therein;

positioning a whipstock having a longitudinal bore running therethrough adjacent a respective one of the lateral wellbore windows;

forming a lateral wellbore through the respective lateral wellbore window using the whipstock;

lining the first lateral wellbore with a lateral liner and a portion of a tie-back assembly, the tie-back assembly having a pre-milled lateral wellbore window formed therein;

aligning the pre-milled lateral wellbore window with the longitudinal bore; and

coupling the tie-back assembly to the main casing by engaging a latching mechanism that is operable to couple the tie-back assembly to the main casing and align the tie-back window with the longitudinal bore of the whipstock.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 9, further comprising successively repeating the positioning, forming, lining, aligning and coupling steps with respect to the remaining lateral wellbore windows.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 9, further comprising directing a tool through the lateral wellbore by utilizing the whipstock.

12-36. (Cancelled)

37. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 9, wherein positioning the whipstock further comprises:

aligning the whipstock such that a deflecting surface of the whipstock faces the respective lateral wellbore window; and

coupling the whipstock to the main casing with a latching mechanism.

38. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 9, wherein aligning the pre-milled lateral wellbore window with the longitudinal bore further comprises rotating the tie-back assembly and wherein coupling the tie-back assembly to the main casing comprises latching the tie-back assembly to the main casing.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 9, wherein casing the main wellbore comprises casing the main wellbore with a main casing having an outside diameter of approximately 5 1/2 inches.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 9, wherein the tie-back assembly further comprises a lower section, an upper section, and an intermediate section disposed between the lower and upper sections, the method further comprising:

- allowing angular and rotational movement of the intermediate section relative to the lower section, and

- allowing only angular movement of the intermediate section relative to the upper section.

41. (Withdrawn) A system for lining a lateral wellbore, comprising:

- a main casing having a lateral wellbore window formed therein disposed within a main wellbore;

- a whipstock having a longitudinal bore running therethrough and disposed within the main wellbore adjacent the lateral wellbore window, the whipstock comprising a deflecting surface extending around the full perimeter of the whipstock for forming a lateral wellbore through the lateral wellbore window;

- a tie-back assembly operable to dispose a lateral liner within the lateral wellbore, the tie-back assembly comprising:

  - a lower section configured to couple to the lateral liner;

  - an upper section;

  - an intermediate section disposed between the lower and upper sections, the intermediate section having a tie-back window formed therein; and

  - a nose section coupled to the intermediate section; and

whereby, when the tie-back assembly is disposed into the main wellbore, the lateral liner, the lower section and a portion of the intermediate section are deflected into the lateral wellbore by the deflecting surface and the nose section is inserted into the whipstock such that the tie-back window aligns with the longitudinal bore of the whipstock.

42. (Withdrawn) The system of Claim 41, wherein the longitudinal bore of the whipstock is concentric with an outside diameter of the whipstock.

43. (Withdrawn) The system of Claim 41, wherein the nose section is coupled to an inside surface of the whipstock with a latching mechanism.

44. (Withdrawn) The system of Claim 41, wherein a diameter of the intermediate section gradually decreases from the upper section to the lower section.

45. (Withdrawn) The system of Claim 41, wherein the main casing comprises an outside diameter of approximately 5 1/2 inches, the lateral wellbore comprises a diameter of approximately 4 3/4 inches, and a diameter of the intermediate section is uniform.

46. (Withdrawn) The system of Claim 41, wherein the whipstock comprises an outside diameter of approximately 4 1/2 inches and a longitudinal bore comprises a diameter of approximately 2.44 inches.

47. (Withdrawn) The system of Claim 41, further comprising a latching mechanism operable to couple the whipstock to an inside surface of the main casing and align the deflecting surface with the lateral wellbore window.

48. (Withdrawn) The system of Claim 41, further comprising:  
a first swivel coupling the intermediate section to the lower section, the first swivel operable to allow angular and rotational movement of the intermediate section relative to the lower section,  
and

a second swivel coupling the intermediate section to the upper section, the second swivel operable to allow only angular movement of the intermediate section relative to the upper section.

49. (Withdrawn) The system of Claim 41, further comprising a latching mechanism operable to couple the upper portion to the main casing.

50. (Withdrawn) The system of Claim 41, wherein an end of the lateral liner comprises an outside diameter that is at least slightly greater than a diameter of the longitudinal bore.

51. (Currently Amended) A method for lining a lateral wellbore, comprising:  
drilling a main wellbore extending from a surface to a subterranean zone;  
casing the main wellbore with a main casing having a plurality of lateral wellbore windows formed therein;

positioning a whipstock having a longitudinal bore running therethrough adjacent a respective one of the lateral wellbore windows, the whipstock comprising a deflecting surface extending around the full perimeter of the whipstock;

forming a lateral wellbore through the respective lateral wellbore window using the whipstock;

lining the first lateral wellbore with a lateral liner and a portion of a tie-back assembly, the tie-back assembly comprising an intermediate section having a pre-milled lateral wellbore window formed therein;

aligning the pre-milled lateral wellbore window with the longitudinal bore; and

coupling the tie-back assembly to the main casing by engaging a latching mechanism that is operable to couple the tie-back assembly to the main casing and align the tie-back window with the longitudinal bore of the whipstock.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 51, further comprising successively repeating the positioning, forming, lining, aligning and coupling steps with respect to the remaining lateral wellbore windows.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 51, further comprising directing a tool through the lateral wellbore by utilizing the whipstock.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 51, wherein the longitudinal bore of the whipstock is concentric with an outside diameter of the whipstock.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 51, wherein positioning the whipstock further comprises:

aligning the whipstock such that the deflecting surface of the whipstock faces the respective lateral wellbore window; and

coupling the whipstock to the main casing with a latching mechanism.

56. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 51, wherein aligning the pre-milled lateral wellbore window with the longitudinal bore further comprises rotating the tie-back assembly and wherein coupling the tie-back assembly to the main casing comprises latching the tie-back assembly to the main casing.

57. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 51, wherein the tie-back assembly further comprises a nose section, the method further comprising inserting substantially all of the nose section into the longitudinal bore of the whipstock when aligning the pre-milled lateral wellbore window with the longitudinal bore.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 51, wherein casing the main wellbore comprises casing the main wellbore with a main casing having an outside diameter of approximately 5 1/2 inches, and wherein forming the lateral wellbore comprises forming a lateral wellbore having an outside diameter of approximately 4 3/4 inches.

59. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 51, wherein the tie-back assembly further comprises a lower section, an upper section, and an intermediate nose section, the method further comprising:

allowing angular and rotational movement of the intermediate section relative to the lower section; and

allowing only angular movement of the intermediate section relative to the upper section.

60. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 59, further comprising causing a diameter of the intermediate portion to gradually decrease from the upper section to the lower section.

61. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a well bore having a casing disposed at least partially therein; and

two or more lateral bores coupled to the well bore and extending at least partially into a coal seam, two or more of the lateral bores each having a lateral liner disposed at least partially therein; and

a tie-back assembly between one of the lateral liners and the casing, the tie-back assembly having a tie-back window formed therein and a latch mechanism operable to couple the tie-back assembly to the main casing and align the tie-back window with a longitudinal bore of the casing

62. (Cancelled)

63. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 62, further comprising a whipstock in the well bore, the whipstock having a longitudinal bore running therethrough.

64. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 61 62, wherein the tieback assembly comprises:

a first section configured to couple to the lateral liner;

a second section configured to couple to the casing;

an intermediate section disposed between the first and second sections;

a first swivel configured to couple the intermediate section to the first section and operable to allow angular and rotational movement of the intermediate section relative to the first section.



65. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 64, wherein the tieback assembly further comprises a second swivel configured to couple the intermediate section to the second section, the second swivel operable to allow angular and substantially prevent rotational movement of the intermediate section relative to the second section.

66. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 61, wherein the well bore comprises a substantially horizontal bore.

67. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:  
positioning a casing within a well bore; and  
coupling a first lateral liner to the casing, the first lateral liner disposed at least partially in a first lateral well bore that extends at least partially into a coal seam;  
coupling the first lateral liner to a tie-back assembly having a tie-back window formed therein;  
coupling the tie-back assembly to the casing using a latching mechanism operable to couple the tieback assembly to the main casing and align the tie-back window with a longitudinal bore of the casing; and  
coupling a second lateral liner to the casing, the second lateral liner disposed at least partially in a second lateral well bore.

68. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67, further comprising:  
positioning a whipstock in the well bore;  
with the whipstock, deflecting a drilling mechanism to drill the first lateral well bore; and  
passing a tool in the well bore through the whipstock.

69. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67, further comprising:  
positioning a first whipstock in the well bore;  
with the first whipstock, deflecting a drilling mechanism to drill the first lateral well bore;  
positioning a second whipstock in the well bore without removing the first whipstock from the well bore; and

with the second whipstock, deflecting a drilling mechanism to drill the second lateral well bore.

70. (Cancelled)

71. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 67 ~~70~~, wherein coupling a first lateral liner to the casing further comprises:

deflecting the first lateral liner and tieback assembly off of a whipstock positioned in the well bore into the first lateral well bore; and

aligning a lateral passage through the tieback assembly with a longitudinal passage through the whipstock.